## ALABAMA BAPTIST INSTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

### Fifty-Fifth Anniversary

OF THE

### BETHLEHEM

# Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

### MONROEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH,

MONROE COUNTY, ALA.,

COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 23d, 1871.

MOBILE:

Henry Farrow & Co., Book and Job Printers. 1871.



### MINUTES.

### MONROEVILLE CHURCH, Monroe County, Ala., Sept. 23, 1871.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment, with the Monroeville Church. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. G. Curry, from St. John, 17th chapter, and a part of the 15th verse.

After a recess of an hour, the delegates assembled in the Church, and the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder A. Jay, and opened by singing and prayer by Elder G. W. Kierce. The Moderator announced the Association ready for the transaction of business.

On motion of Elder W.G. Curry, the clerk called the Churches in their regular order, and their Messengers presented their letters and enrolled their names.

The names of delegates enrolled by the clerk were as follows:

### FIRST DISTRICT.

Montgomery Hill.—Letter; no messenger. Little River.—Turner Stark, Elder A. J. Lambert. Claiborne.—R. A. Lambert.

Salem.—John Avry, James Newberry, R. T. D. Wiggins.

Zion.—Elder J. MeWilliams, M. J. Weston, Richard Hixen.

Monroeville.—Asa Parker, John W. Leslie, John DeLoach.

Philadelphia —Elder W. G. Chry, W. T. Nettles, T. S.

Philadelphia.—Elder W. G. Curry, W. T. Nettles, T. S. Wiggins.

Pleasant Ridge.—E. T. Andress, R. McDonald.

Mars Hill.—James Boon, John Boon.

Cedar Grove.—M. McLeod, Jesse Owen.

Sardis.—Not represented.

Pine Barren.—Not represented.

### SECOND DISTRICT.

Bethany.—Joel Lee, B. Sherley, S. Brantley.
Bellville.—Elder E. Cline, J. W. Cox, C. D. Gully.
Arkadelphia.—James Norred, Isaac Hines.
Catawba Springs.—J. J. Jarnagan.
Pilgrim's Rest.—Letter; no messenger.
Breckinridge.—Elder J. M. Wood, F. M. Walker.
Elim.—Henry Peeble.
Point Pleasant.—Elder J. Smith.
Pensacola.—Elder J. D. Beek.
Olive Branch.————
Cedar Creck.—————

### THIRD DISTRICT.

Evergreen.—J. W. Locke, H. B. Long.
New Hope.—J. Martin, J. R. Higdon.
New Prospect.—G. R. Stamps.
Union.—L. Garner, W. H. Joiner.
Brushy Creek.—G. T. F. Burk.
Milton, Fla.—Elder G. W. Kieree.
Brooklyn.—Elder J. E. Melver.
Georgiana.—C. E. Bruner.
Sepulga.—W. D. Smith.
Old Town.—I. Spence, Z. Hart.
Pleasant Hill.—A. B. Owen.

Coon Hill.—B. L. Diamond, W. C. McDavid, J. H. Diamond. Mount Carmel.—Letter.

Antioch.—Letter.

Damascus.—Letter.

Beulah.—Elder A. Jay, J. G. Baggett.

Mitchel Creek.—James Lee.

Bethel.—G. N. Varner.

Blue Springs .- Elias Beasley, Wm. Hall.

Pleasant Grove.—J. C. Coleman.

On motion of Elder W. G. Curry, the reading of the letters was dispensed with, and referred to the Committee on State of Religion and Digest of Letters.

Proceeded to the election of officers for perfecting organization, which resulted in the re-election of Elder A. Jay, Moderator; John DeLoach, Clerk, and W. T. Nettles, Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed Committee on Preaching, to report

at pleasure, to-wit: J. McWilliams, Asa Parker and the pastor and deacons of the Monroeville Church.

Petitionary letters for membership were called for, and letters from the following churches were presented, to-wit: Blue Springs, and Pleasant Grove, which were read, and, on motion, were received into the membership of this body, and the right hand of fellowship extended to their Messengers.

Letters and messengers from corresponding bodies were called for.

From Pine Barren Association—Letter and package of Minutes were presented by her Messengers, Elder C. W. Hare, J. L. Eddins, Lafayette Duke and J. B. Cotton, and invited them to seats with us.

From the Alabama Association—Received a package of Minutes by the hands of Messenger J.J. Vaughn and invited him to a seat with us.

From the Zion Association—Received her Messenger, Elder B. Kierce, and invited him to a seat with us.

The Moderator announced the appointment of standing committees.

On State of Religion and Digest of Letters.—Elder. W. G. Curry, J. McWilliams, E. Cline, J. C. Coleman and J. W. Leslie.

On Sabbath Schools.—W. T. Nettles, F. M. Walker, H. B. Long, Elder W. G. Curry, J. E. McIver and G. R. Stamps.

On Domestic Missions.—Asa Parker, Elder J. D. Beck, Jacob Smith, Turner Starke and G. W. Kierce.

On Queries and Requests.—Elder G. W. Kierce, J. W. Leslie, T. S. Wiggins, L. Garner and J. G. Baggett.

On Finance.—J. W. Locke, Ingram Spence and C. E. Bruner. On motion of J. W. Locke, that "Temperance" be an item of business, and that a Committee on Temperance be raised, towit: Elder J. D. Beck, J. E. McIver, M. J. Weston, J. W. Locke, James Newberry and C. D. Gully.

The Committee on Preaching reported as follows: To-night, at the Baptist Church, Elder J. L. Eddins; on Sabbath, at eleven o'clock, at the Baptist Church, Elder C. W. Hare; at the Presbyterian Church, Elder A: J. Lambert; at night of Sabbath, at the Baptist Church, Elder A. Jay; at the Presbyterian Church, Elder Lafayette Duke.

The Association adjourned to Monday morning at eight o'clock. Prayer by Elder John McWilliams.

ON SABBATH the ministers preached in the order of their appointment to large and attentive audiences, and after the forenoon services a collection was taken up for Associational purposes, amounting to \$46.71.

Monday Morning, September 25, 1871.

The Association convened pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder A. J. Lambert.

Elder W. G. Curry, chairman of the Committee on State of Religion and Digest of Letters, made report, which was received and adopted. (See appendix A.)

W. T. Nettles, chairman Committee on Sabbath Schools, made their report, which was received and adopted. (Appendix B.)

Asa Parker, chairman Committee on Domestic Missions, made their report, which was received and adopted. (Appendix C.)

Elder G. W. Kierce, chairman Committee on Queries and Requests, made their report, which was received and adopted. Appendix D.)

On motion of Elder J. D. Beck, that the Moderator appoint a Committee on Correspondence. Committee appointed: Elder A. J. Lambert, G. W. Kierce, G. R. Stamps, J. E. McIver.

Elder W. G. Curry, chairman of the special committee on Ministerial Education, made a verbal report of the action of the committee, which was received and the committee discharged. Also, Brother J. E. McIver, the beneficiary of this Association at the Howard College, made a report, which was received.

On motion of Elder A. Jay, a special committee of three be raised to report the situation, and the necessity of supplying the Pensacola Church with a minister. Committee appointed, Elder A. Jay, J. W. Leslie, F. M. Walker.

Elder J. D. Beck, chairman of the Committee on Temperance, made their report, and, on motion, the report was re-committed back to the committee, and Brother F. M. Walker was added to the committee, and to report in the afternoon.

Elder A. J. Lambert, chairman Committee on Correspondence, made their report, which was received and adopted. (Appendix E.)

Elder J. D. Beek, chairman Committee on Temperance, made his report. The report was amended, and adopted. (Appendix F.)

Brother J. W. Leslie, offered the following resolution, amending the Constitution of this Association, which was adopted:

That article 3, of the Constitution of the Bethlehem Association be so amended as to read as follows:

The Churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a Letter specifying the names of their Messengers; their number in fellowship; baptized; received by letter; 'dismissed; excommunicated; restored; deceased since last session; by whom supplied; name of clerk; postoffice; Sabbath meetings, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

Elder A. Jay, chairman of the special committee in relation to the Pensacola Church, made their report, which was received and adopted, and, on motion, the same committee was retained as an Executive Committee, to carry out the objects indicated in the report. (Appendix G.)

Brother J. W. Locke, chairman Finance Committee, made their report, which was received and adopted. (Appendix H.)

On motion of Brother J. W. Locke, that the clerk be allowed twenty-five dollars for his services, and the balance of the Minute fund be appropriated for the printing and distributing of the Minutes.

On motion of Brother J. W. Leslie, that the Associational Fund in the hands of the Treasurer be turned over to Elder A. Jay, chairman of the Executive Committee, to be expended by them as they may think proper.

Brother J. W. Locke offered the following resolution respecting District Meetings and Sabbath School Conventions, which was adopted:

WHEREAS, the District Meetings and Sabbath School Conventions have, for the past Associational year, been a partial failure;

Resolved, That during the ensuing Associational year, we recommend that we have one District Meeting and Sabbath School Convention in each district, and the appointments be made at this time and published in the Minutes, and that each Church, prior to its District Meeting appoint its delegates.

The time appointed for District Meetings and Sabbath School Conventions: In third district, Georgiana, third Sabbath in March, 1872; in second district, Brewton, second Sabbath in June, 1871; in first district, Monroeville, second Sabbath in May, 1872.

Appointed correspondence as follows:

To Pine Barren Association, Elder W. G. Curry, J. W. Leslie,

F. M. Walker, J. W. Cox, H. B. Long, J. M. Wood, Joseph Martin, G. F. Burk, W. T. Nettles, J. D. Beck, C. D. Gulley.

To the Alabama Association, Elder P. S. Milner, G. R. Stamps, Elder A. Jay.

To Zion Association, J. E. McIver, G. W. Kierce, A. J. Robertson, H. B. Long.

To State Conventions, Elder A. Jay, J. W. Locke, J. D. Beck, G. R. Stamps, W. G. Curry.

On motion of J. W. Leslie, the next session of this body be held with the Bellville Church, Coneculi County, Ala., and appoint Elder J. D. Beck to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder J. McWilliams, alternate.

On motion of J. W. Leslie, that a committee of three be appointed to co-operate with a like committee from the Pine Barren Association, to take into consideration the propriety of erecting a denominational college in South Alabama. Committee appointed, to-wit: J. W. Leslie, Elder W. G. Curry, John De-Loach.

W. T. Nettles, Treasurer, made his report, which was received and concurred in. (Appendix I.)

Elder G. W. Kierce made a report of the Executive Committee of the Milton Church, of their efforts in sustaining a missionary and colporteur in the missionary field in the bounds of this Association.

On motion of F. M. Walker, that this Association recommend Elder G. W. Kierce as a colporteur in the bounds of this Association.

On motion, the Association, after a harmonious session, adjourned to meet with the Bellville Church, Conecuh county, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1872.

A. JAY, Moderator.

JOHN DELOACH, Clerk.

### APPENDIX.

[A.]

### ON STATE OF RELIGION AND DIGEST OF LETTERS.

Your Committee on the State of Religion and Digest of Letters, respectfully report that we have carefully examined the Letters from the various Churches comprising your body. The tone of the Letters would seem to indicate that the cause of our Master is prospering within our bounds. We notice that there is not so much complaint of coldness as formerly. Many of the Churches report precious revivals and large accessions to their numbers by baptism. During the last Associational year, one hundred and sixty have been added to the various Churches by baptism. There seems to be an increasing interest manifested in Sabbath Schools. We find twelve Sabbath Schools in the Letters, all of which are reported in a prosperous condition, with the following churches, to-wit: Philadelphia, Zion, Arkadelphia, Antioch, Bellville, Brushy Creek, Evergreen, Bethel, Pleasant Grove, Pilgrims' Rest. We, your committee, think that those brethren who are going forward in this great work should be esteemed very highly for their work sake.

We notice in the Letter from the Sepulga Church, that the credentials of Brother J. U. Richie have been restored to him, and he enters again upon his ministerial duties. Evergreen Church pledges \$25.00 for Domestic Missions, to be paid at the next meeting of your body, quarterly or semi-annually, as you may direct.

W. G. CURRY, Chairman.

[B.]

### ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The subject of Sabbath School instruction is, we are proud to say, engaging more and more the attention of Christians within the bounds of our Association. We record with pleasure the advance made within the last twelve months, and that Christians no longer regard this a work outside of, but a work of the Church. Not only should the youth of the country be instructed in Bible truths, but members of churches, by uniting in Bible classes (and these need instruction as well as children) can inform themselves of all things commanded by the Great Teacher. The monthly visits of the pastor, which are, in a great degree, insufficient to accomplish the work for which the Church was instituted, can be rendered more effective by such aid. The Letters from the Churches to this body show that those churches with Sabbath Schools and Bible classes are flourishing, and in most instances have been revived by refreshing showers of grace, showing that God will bless the combined labors of His ministers and faithful teachers. We hope that every church in our bounds may report a Sabbath School, at our next annual session.

W. T. NETTLES, Chairman.

[C.]

### ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Domestic Missions respectfully report that, on account of the financial disabilities of our Association, we ask of the ministering

brethren to do as much missionary labor as they can, and that the churches supply ministers so engaged with all the aid in their power, and if any brother will volunteer to act as colporteur, that the Association recommend him as such to the confidence of the public, and we respectfully recommend the missionary funds on hand to the wisdom of the Association.

A. PARKER, Chairman.

### [D.]

### ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your committee beg leave to report that the Brooklyn Church request you to add to your items of business "a Committee on Temperance." Also that the Bellville Church invites you to hold the next session of your body with them. We recommend that these requests be granted.

G. W. KIERCE, Chairman.

### [E.]

### ON CORRESPONDENCE.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association, to corresponding Associations sendeth Christian salutations.

With pleasure we hail another session of our body; yet we regret that we have met so few messengers from corresponding bodies. We desire a continuance of correspondence. We have had some precious revivals in many of our churches, while in others there is coldness and complaint of great destitution. May the Lord bless and aid you in all your efforts to advance His cause!

A. J. LAMBERT, Chairman.

### [F.]

### ON TEMPERANCE.

Brethren of the Association: We, your committee, begleave to report that, as Intemperance is fearfully increasing, and is a most debasing sin, destroying reason, robbing families of peace, happiness and bread, leading men to dishonor, disease and crime, and bringing reproach and disgrace upon the cause of Christ and His Church, we do advise each church to use all diligence in reforming its members who are in the habit of frequenting drinking saloons and to suppress the practice, if possible, of church members selling spirituous liquors, except as medicine; that we recommend that pastors of churches be requested to preach at least one sermon during the year upon the evils of Intemperance.

J. D. BECK, Chairman.

### [G.]

### REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

Your committee beg leave to report that they have given the subject submitted to them, to-wit: "The propriety of supplying the church and city of Pensacola with an efficient preacher," such consideration as the limited time and the information at hand would permit, and the result of their labor is, that they regard it of the first importance to have our denominational interest fostered and strengthened at Pensacola. Because, first, our denomination is lessening instead of increasing. Other denominations are gathering into their membership, not only the children of Baptists, but Baptists themselves. Second, the Baptist house of worship is involved, and in order to place the Baptist cause on a proper footing, that embarrassment must be removed. Third, it is a city of considerable population, and not improbable will become much larger in a few years, and the work we are doing and have done since the war, has done but little to better our condition there. If we would build up there

-if we would hold even our own members, much less secure to our membership the children of Baptists—if we would take a position to place ourselves on an equal footing with other denominations—if we would extinguish the debt on the house of worship, or if we would evangelize the destitution around the bay and tributaries, then an advanced position must be taken. More must be done than has been done. Can what is needed to the accomplishment of this Herculean task be done? Under God we believe it can.

Let us unite our energies; call a man that can sustain the cause and defend the doctrines, to that work, and give him all the help we can. Represent the matter in our associated capacity to the Domestic Board at Marion, and solicit their co-operation and assistance; and in this way we can get a man—and in this way accomplish, as we believe, the great work, which, if accomplished, must do more for our cause, in that whole region, than anything that could be done or has been done. We recommend the Association, in furtherance of this object, to call Elder P. H. Lundy, of Prattville, Alabama, believing that his services can be had, and would suggest that we try to raise on our part, by cash or pledges, at this session of the Association, at least four hundred dollars, and we believe that the Board will pay the balance, to place the matter on a supporting basis.

Respectfully submitted,

A. JAY, Chairman.

### [H.]

### FINANCIAL REPORT.

Your committee beg leave to report the following amounts for the objects designated:

CHURCHES.	FOR MI	NUTES.	CHURCHES.	FOR MINUTES
Claiborne			Breckinridge	\$2 00
Salem				1 45
Zion			New Hope	2 00
Monroeville		5 00	Elim	3 00
Philadelphia		4 20	Pleasant Hill	1 50
Pleasant Ridge		1 35	Evergreen	2 25
Point Pleasant		1 50	New Prospect	1 00
Pleasant Hill		1 50	Brooklyn	1 50
Blue Springs		1 50	Milton	2 50
Sardis		1 50	Bethel	
Pilgrims' Rest		2 50	Sepulga	
Cedar Grove		1 00	Old Town	1 75
Bellville		4 50	Coon Hill	2 00
Arkadelphia			Beulah	
Catawba Springs		1 50	Brushy Creek	
Pensacola		50	Mitchel's Creek	1 00
Mount Carmel		2 00	Antioch	2 00
Bethany			Mars Hill	
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Respectfully submitted,

J. W. LOCKE, Chairman.

# TABULAR STATEMENT.

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### [I]

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. T. Nettles, Treasurer, in account with the Bethlehem Association.

### DR.

To amounts received of Finance Committee.  Minute Fund					
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	ø 94 90				
By amount paid elerk					
" " A. Jay	#907 CE				
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Respectfully submitte	ed,				
W. T. NETTLES, Treasurer.					
A. Jay. 5 00 J. McWilliams 5 00 J. W. Leslie 10 00 W. T. Nettles 5 00 Pilgrim's Rest 5 00 Evergreen 25 00 I. R. Cotton 5 00 W. W. Spence 2 50 W. A. Fountain 2 50 Isaac Andress 1 00 J. E. K. Hyon 2 50 John Avery 2 00 Rob	## Recein supplying the Pensacola for Walker. ## 5 00 lah Church. 10 00 lah Church. 5 00 la				



